



# Chengdu Tribune

Cool News from the Land of Hotpot



## October/November 2015

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### Upcoming holidays closures for Consulate Services:

November 26—Thanksgiving Day

December 25—Christmas Day

January 1—New Years Day

For a complete list of holiday closures, please visit the [U.S. Consulate Website](#)

## Chengdu Consulate Hosts US Citizen Open House

On September 10th the US Consulate in Chengdu hosted an American Citizen Services Open House.

Together with special guests Consul General Raymond Greene and the U.S. Embassy's Minister Counselor for Consular Affairs Julie Kavanaugh, the consulate welcomed over 100 US citizens to the rooftop patio of the Ascott at Raffles City Mall to discuss issues facing the US citizen community in our district.



This well attended event demonstrated the vibrancy and diversity of the growing US community in Chengdu, and provided a forum for face-to-face discussion between the US Consulate and our citizen community.

## Upcoming Events

### December Kunming Services Trip

A consular officer will visit Kunming to offer limited routine citizen services on Saturday, December 5th. The consulate ACS unit will send an e-mail with further details and information on how to sign up for an appointment. If you have any questions or don't receive an e-mail, write us at [amcitchengdu@state.gov](mailto:amcitchengdu@state.gov).

### January Chongqing Services Trip

A consular officer will visit Chongqing to offer limited routine citizen services in mid-January, the time and date will be announced through e-mail and on the consulate website in the coming weeks.

# Worldwide Travel Alert

## The State Department alerts U.S. citizens to possible risks of travel due to increased terrorist threats.

Current information suggests that ISIL (aka Da'esh), al-Qa'ida, Boko Haram, and other terrorist groups continue to plan terrorist attacks in multiple regions. These attacks may employ a wide variety of tactics, using conventional and non-conventional weapons and targeting both official and private interests. This Travel Alert expires on February 24, 2016.

Authorities believe the likelihood of terror attacks will continue as members of ISIL/Da'esh return from Syria and Iraq. Additionally, there is a continuing threat from unaffiliated persons planning attacks inspired by major terrorist organizations but conducted on an individual basis. Extremists have targeted large sporting events, theatres, open markets, and aviation services. In the past year, there have been multiple attacks in France, Nigeria, Denmark, Turkey, and Mali. ISIL/Da'esh has claimed responsibility for the bombing of a Russian airliner in Egypt.

U.S. citizens should exercise vigilance when in public places or using transportation. Be aware of immediate surroundings and avoid large crowds or crowded places. Exercise particular caution during the holiday season and at holiday festivals or events. U.S. citizens should monitor media and local information sources and factor updated information into personal travel plans and activities. Persons with specific safety concerns should contact local law enforcement authorities who are responsible for the safety and security of all visitors to their host country. U.S. citizens should:

- Follow the instructions of local authorities. Monitor media and local information sources and factor updated information into personal travel plans and activities.
- Be prepared for additional security screening and unexpected disruptions.
- Stay in touch with your family members and ensure they know how to reach you in the event of an emergency.
- Register in our [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) (STEP).

Foreign governments have taken action to guard against terrorist attacks, and some have made official declarations regarding heightened threat conditions. Authorities continue to conduct raids and disrupt terror plots. We continue to work closely with our allies on the threat from international terrorism. Information is routinely shared between the United States and our key partners in order to disrupt terrorist plotting, identify and take action against potential operatives, and strengthen our defenses against potential threats.

For further information:

- See the [State Department's travel website](#) for the [Worldwide Caution](#), [Travel Warnings](#), [Travel Alerts](#), and [Country Specific Information](#).
- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) (STEP) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

## News, Announcements, and Reminders

### Consular Officer visits Lijiang, Shangri-La, and Kunming

The American Citizen Services unit of the US Consulate visited Lijiang in late August and early September, meeting with Chinese officials to discuss issues related to U.S. tourism and residency in Lijiang, as well as crisis management and cooperation. During the visit, officers also met with Americans living and working in Lijiang and Shangri-La and assessed local medical facilities.

In September, consular officers also visited Kunming to perform routine consular services.

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### Important Change to Passport Services

Starting January 1st, 2016, we will no longer add extra visa pages to U.S. passports. Instead, we are issuing 52-page passport books at no extra cost to U.S. citizens applying overseas.

Renew your passport early to make sure you have enough blank pages for visa stamps from other countries. Some require two blank pages for entry and exit.

*See [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov) for more information on entry, exit, and foreign visa requirements.*




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### Travel Smart: Enroll in STEP

STEP (Smart Traveler Enrollment Program) is a service for U.S. citizens and nationals traveling abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Consulate or Embassy. Enrolling your trip allows you to receive important information from your local embassy or consulate regarding safety conditions in your destination country, helping you make informed decisions about travel plans. Enrollment also helps the U.S. embassy or consulate contact you in the event of an emergency, whether natural disaster, civil unrest, or a family emergency.

Enrolling is free and easy, simply visit the [STEP website](#) to create an account and register your trip.

## Benefits of Enrolling in STEP

-  Receive important information from the Embassy about safety conditions in your destination country, helping you make informed decisions about your travel plans.
-  Help the U.S. Embassy contact you in an emergency, whether natural disaster, civil unrest, or family emergency.
-  Help family and friends get in touch with you in an emergency.

**Already enrolled?** Take a moment to update your information with any changes to your location, name, contact info, or travel plans. Maintaining up to date information will help us better serve you in an emergency and will ensure you receive the most relevant information from us, including emergency messages and travel warnings, as well as news about upcoming events, changes in Consulate services, and our trips to your area.

# Emergency Consular Services

The American Citizen Services Unit at the US Consulate provides emergency assistance to United States Citizens that are destitute, arrested, separated from minor children, or sick.

During the Consulate's regular business hours the Consulate can be reached at our office phone number **(028) 8558-3992**. For after hours emergencies your call will be routed to an operator to assist you in reaching our emergency after hours duty officer.

### Destitution

If for some reason a US Citizen becomes destitute, the American Citizen Services Unit can assist in contacting family members or friends for financial support. The US Department of State can also assist relatives and friends in the US who wish to send money, although private money-sending services may be faster.

### Illness and Injury

While the US Consulate in Chengdu cannot provide medical services, it does maintain a list of local medical facilities, doctors, dentists, and hospitals known to treat foreigners. Please consult this list for a provider in your area: [Medical Facilities and Doctors](#)

### Arrests and Detentions

If an American citizen is detained by Chinese authorities, the Consulate General does all it can to assist. In conformance with the U.S.-PRC Consular Convention, Chinese authorities must report the detention of a U.S. citizen who entered China on his or her U.S. passport to the Consulate General no later than four days from the date of arrest or detention. A Consular officer will visit American detainees and provide a list of sources of legal advice or assistance. In cases of lengthy incarceration, we visit American prisoners regularly to ensure that American citizens are treated fairly.

### Victims of Crime

If an American is a victim of crime in China, he or she should contact the police in their local area. Everywhere in China, the Police Emergency Number is: 110. In such situations, Americans may also need to contact a doctor and/or a lawyer. Please see [Law Firms in China](#) for a list of law firms in your area.

**If you are injured or the victim of a crime, contact the police in your local area.**

## Customs Information

### Pay attention to customs restrictions when you travel.

Many countries, including China, have restrictions on what you can bring into or take out of that country. For China, items subject to customs control include: drugs, weapons, animals and animal products (including coral and coral products), plants, cultural artifacts and antiques, banned publications, and some religious literature. China also restricts the amount of alcohol and tobacco products that can be brought into the country. Travelers may not carry more than 20,000RMB in cash or the equivalent of 5000 USD in foreign currency, though traveler's checks and letters of credit are not restricted. If you are carrying anything that might be controlled or restricted, remember you must go through the "Goods to Declare" Red Channel at customs. In China, failure to declare controlled items to customs officials can result in criminal prosecution.

For a complete list of items allowed in and out of China, please see the General Administration of Customs : <http://english.customs.gov.cn/service/guide?c=e6fb7440-5df2-4e87-bf92-c4eb697324d8&k=45>

For a concise and practical guide to customs restrictions, see the Beijing Capital Airport's customs page: <http://en.bcia.com.cn/server/notice/custom.shtml>

## Contact Us

U.S. Consulate Chengdu  
4 Lingshiguan Lu  
Chengdu, Sichuan

Phone: (86 28) 8558-3992  
Fax: (86 28) 8554-6229

Email: [AmcitChengdu@state.gov](mailto:AmcitChengdu@state.gov)

Appointment Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays,  
and Fridays from 13:00—16:00

Please make appointments through the  
consulate website:  
<http://chengdu.usembassy-china.org.cn>

**We welcome your feedback!**



## CAUTION

Please use caution when walking in the street in front of our facility as Chinese authorities have restricted pedestrian access to the sidewalk in front of the U. S. Consulate General in Chengdu.

The Consulate continues to request that the sidewalk be opened to pedestrians for their safety and convenience.

### Chinese emergency numbers:

Police	110
Fire Department	119
Ambulance	120
To report a traffic accident	122
Information	114